

Amendment to DIFFUSION CELL WITH QUICK RELEASE CLAMP
Royal A. Hanson, inventor
Serial No. 10/056,186
Filed January 28, 2002
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 remain in this application.

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8 and 11 have been amended.

The originally submitted Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the reference of Hanson, et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 specifically defines that the diffusion cell has a quick release clamping apparatus engaging with the donor housing. In the reference to Hanson, et al., there is no quick release clamping apparatus. The clamping apparatus comprises a series of four bolts 36 which was be tediously loosened and removed for the purpose of inserting a new membrane 30. One of the advantages of the present invention is that this tedious removal and reinstallation of the membrane has been eliminated by the use of a quick release clamping apparatus. The structure of the present invention has been specifically designed to be an improvement over the structure of the reference of Hanson, et al. which is also owned by the same assignee of record. It is believed that the inserting of the quick release clamping structure within independent Claim 1 defines a distinction which is not shown or taught by Hanson, et al., and that Claim 1 should be allowed.

Additionally, dependent Claim 6 has further defined the quick release clamping apparatus as comprising a U-shaped clamp apparatus which has an open cavity and also a pair of plates which are utilized in conjunction with the clamping apparatus. No such

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structural arrangement is even remotely suggested by Hanson, et al. Therefore, it is believed that dependent Claim 6 also defines allowable subject matter and that Claim 6 should be allowed.

Claim 2, which is dependent from Claim 1, has defined that the sampling port includes a capillary passage. Within Hanson, et al., there is no capillary passage in the sampling port. Again, the insertion of the capillary passage within the sampling port is deemed to be an improvement of the prior art of Hanson, et al., and that Claim 2 further defines allowable subject matter and should be allowed. For the same reason, it is also believed that Claim 7 which also defines the capillary passage should also be allowed.

Claim 3 has further defined that the donor housing includes a disc which includes a center opening. No such donor housing is shown or remotely suggested in Hanson, et al. Additionally, Claim 3 has defined that the donor housing also includes a cap which is mounted on the disc. The donor chamber is defined by this center opening. No such structure is even remotely suggested in Hanson, et al. Therefore, it is believed that Claim 3 defines patentably distinctive subject matter and that Claim 3 should also be allowed. For the same reason, it is believed that dependent Claim 8 and independent Claim 11, which includes similar terminology, should also be allowed.

Claim 4 defines that the cap, which is included within the donor housing, includes a viewing port. Since there is no such cap shown in Hanson, et al., it is believed that the further distinction of defining a cap having a viewing port defines patentably distinctive subject matter and should be allowed. For the same reason, it is believed that

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Claim 9 and Claim 12 should also be allowed.

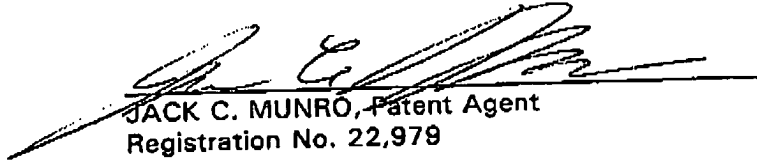
Claim 5, has defined a diffusion cell where both the receptor filling port and the sampling port include a Luer fitting. The addition of a Luer fitting is, again, an improvement over the structure of Hanson, et al. facilitating quick connection and disconnection where within Hanson, et al. such quick connection and disconnection was not possible. It is therefore believed that such structure which is defined within dependent Claim 5, dependent Claim 10 and dependent Claim 13, define patentably distinctive subject matter and that these claims should also be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and arguments presented herein, it is believed that the claims as now submitted clearly define allowable subject matter over the references of record. It is courteously requested that this application be reconsidered, such reconsideration being favorable resulting in passing of this application to issue.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which
may be required, or credit any overpayment to account No. 13-4899.

Respectfully submitted,



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